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had elapsed since the last feeding time, it was only by continuous and patient effort that the rats were induced to come forward and take bits of cheese offered. Instead of jumping to some corner to enjoy the morsel undisturbed, however, they huddled together in one place, intermittently whining. An hour later they had eaten their cheese but had not moved from the corner and one was still whining.

A simple test was made in the following manner. The cat was handled and petted a few moments and then an attempt was made to secure a male rat from a near-by cage. The rats are handled so frequently that they ordinarily climb over the hand and lightly bite here and there in search of food. On this occasion, however, the behavior was exactly comparable to that found with the females. In the first case the response might have been to the situation—unfamiliar olfactory and auditory stimuli; and in the second to the situation—unfamiliar odor.

The rats here observed represent ten generations of inbreeding. The writer is positive that during the time he has worked with them no cat has been in the room or near the room. Some such odors may have been carried in the clothing of experimenters, however, but this on close examination seems unlikely. At no time or under any other circumstances has he observed such a specific and definite reaction to a situation as here illustrated. A few hours later the behavior of all the rats was experimentally normal in every way. This observation has suggested the desirability of pursuing a definite experimental method in the problem. An effort will be made to control all the variable factors attending a chance observation and to make some definite statement as to the specific original behavior in this particular situation. It may be that a similar reaction can be evoked by a distinctively strange stimulus. That is, the behavior here illustrated may not be specifically related to the situation—certain unfamiliar qualities of olfactory and auditory stimuli. Any other new stimulus may arouse such reactions, the necessary component of the total perception being just the unfamiliarity or strangeness and not the spe-

cific feline odor. It will be quite possible to take a litter of young and provide appropriate stimuli, the responses to which can be scrupulously noted. Variations in age and sex, variations in the situations provided, variations in feeding periods, etc., and a comparative study of the behavior of the wild Norway rat under similar conditions, should throw some light on this particular form of original behavior.

COLEMAN R. GRIFFITH

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### THE AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES SECTION OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

A MEETING of the Agricultural Libraries Section of the American Library Association was held at Asbury Park, N. J., June 26, 1919. About forty persons were present, including representatives from the Agricultural College libraries of Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia and thirteen from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Miss Dixon sketched the accomplishments of the Agricultural Libraries Section since its first meeting at Mackinac in 1910, among the most notable which was the bringing about of the publication of the Agricultural Index by the H. W. Wilson Company.

Mr. Milton J. Ferguson, librarian of the California State Library, in a paper entitled "Getting Books to the Farmer in California," described the county library system, the latest development in the state system, which includes all library activities, municipal, state and others, and which shows the energy, foresight and cooperative spirit, which the state of California exhibits in so many fields.

The paper by Miss Marjorie F. Warner, bibliographical assistant, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on "Bibliographical Opportunities in Horticulture," discussed the need of research in connection with the history of cultivated plants and of horticulture; giving illustrations from work which has been done, specifying certain undertakings which should appeal to agricultural librarians, and concluding with a plea for more scholarly research in bibliography both as an individual asset and as adding to the reputation of our libraries.

On conclusion of the paper a gentleman proving to be Dr. J. W. Harshberger, of the University of Pennsylvania, introduced himself as a stranger attracted to the meeting by its program. He congratulated Miss Warner on her paper, and supplemented it by a brief account of interesting discoveries he had recently made by roundabout methods in seeking information requested by Dr. Sargent, of the Arnold Arboretum, in regard to the Pierce brothers and their nurseries near Kennett Square, Pa., and also alluded to similar methods pursued in regard to William Young, Jr., whose rare "Catalogue des arbres, etc., d'Amérique" (Paris, 1783), has recently been reproduced in facsimile by Rhoads. Mr. Ferguson's and Miss Warner's papers will be published in the *Proceedings* of the Conference of the American Library Association and in the *Library Journal*.

Mr. Charles R. Green, librarian, Massachusetts Agricultural College, presented for discussion the subject of "A Union Checklist of Agricultural Periodicals." He dwelt on the desirability of a list which should make more readily available the present periodical resources of the agricultural libraries of the country, encouraging interlibrary loans and lessening the unnecessary purchase of little used material, and suggested the possible scope of the list, warning against yielding to the temptation to plan an over large project which it would not be possible to carry out. Should such a list include only periodicals on agriculture and its practically related subjects, such as horticulture and animal husbandry, or should it include also those on its related sciences, such as bacteriology, chemistry, botany, entomology, etc.? Or would it be best to issue no nationwide check list, but for agricultural librarians to make an effort to have material of interest to them, included in the various regional periodical union check lists which are in preparation or contemplation?

Miss L. K. Wilkins, chief of the Periodical Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, led the discussion by describing the list of agricultural periodicals of the United States and Canada, compiled as a personal undertaking by Mr. S. C. Stuntz, formerly of the Library of Congress, later of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The list which is very comprehensive and in manuscript form, was purchased by the library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture after Mr. Stuntz's death in 1918. Miss Wilkins suggested that this list be used as a basis for the proposed union check list of agricultural periodicals, omit-

ting the historical notes, and biographical sketches of editors.

Mr. H. O. Severance, librarian of the University of Missouri, said he would like to have the list cover periodicals on all sciences allied to agriculture, but the general opinion seemed to be that it should cover only those on agriculture and the branches of agriculture such as animal husbandry, dairying and horticulture.

Mr. H. W. Wilson, president of the H. W. Wilson Company, described the methods being employed in making up the union check list of periodicals of the central states, and Dr. C. W. Andrews, librarian of the John Crerar Library, stated that they would waive exclusive use of the slugs, and would gladly give those for agricultural periodicals to this section, if an agricultural check list were undertaken.

After further discussion, a motion was made to ascertain whether the section thought it desirable to undertake the preparation of such a list, on the cooperative plan. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Severance then moved that the chair appoint a committee of three with power to act, and to decide upon methods of compiling and publishing a union check list to agricultural periodicals in libraries in the United States. It was understood that the committee was to make the final decision as to its scope. The following committee was appointed by the chair: Mr. Charles R. Green, chairman, Mr. H. O. Severance and Miss Lydia K. Wilkins.

The question of a union check list of agricultural periodicals is one of great importance to all scientists interested in agriculture. If there are any who have any suggestions to make on the subject, the committee would gladly receive them.

EUNICE R. OBERLY

Chairman

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